



# WPPC-MA Newsletter

## Jan 2017

### **2nd General Meeting - All Families Welcome (Jan 29)**

The club will conduct our 2nd general meeting of the year at 1pm on Sunday Jan 29th at the home of Alan and Donna Beaulieu at 153 Belmont Street, Reading MA (Thanks A&D for hosting!). This meeting will precede our Cow Booodle bash at 3pm. We hope that more than just the parents of Cows will join us, especially for the General Meeting. Our agenda includes planning for our 2017 season and taking some important votes that will affect your future experience with the WPPC-MA. We value the opinions of all our members. An agenda will be posted to the club website prior to the meeting. This is also a great opportunity to learn about open club positions and become more active in our organization. Please join us to shape the West Point Parents Club plans for 2017 and to enjoy an afternoon with current (or new!) club friends. Note that we have scheduled this meeting with surgical precision to avoid conflict with the Patriots Super Bowl run. Please RSVP to the Beaulieu's at [alanbeaulieu@verizon.net](mailto:alanbeaulieu@verizon.net).

### **Cow Loan Booodle Bash (Jan 29)**

Following the club's general meeting, we will hold a Cow Booodle Bash at 3pm. Please RSVP to Alan Beaulieu at [alanbeaulieu@verizon.net](mailto:alanbeaulieu@verizon.net). If you have never been to a booodle bash, this is a great one to start with. At a booodle bash, club members each bring some "booodle" (packaged snacks, candies, personal care items, etc) to our gathering. Bring enough of your item(s) so that we can provide at least 1 to each of our cow cadets (about 25). This bash is themed around their mid-year "Cow Loan", so treats with a financial theme are fun (e.g., candy coins, \$100,000 bars, Payday bars, etc). Please avoid large items, as each shoe-box sized booodle container has to fit about 20-30 items. Once our booodle assembly line is set, we'll fill, seal and address the boxes. The club can save ~\$300 in postage if there is a parent that will soon be making a trip to West Point, and is able to transport the boxes (about 1/2 a trunk worth) to the Central Guard room at Grant Turnaround. If you can be our booodle courier, please let us know in your RSVP. If you can't attend, but would like to donate some booodle, please contact Phil Bedard at [pbedard1@gmail.com](mailto:pbedard1@gmail.com) and he can advise you on where to drop off your donation. All attendees are welcome to bring an appetizer or dessert, and if so, please mention what you plan to bring in your RSVP. Hope to see you there!

### **Thanks to Paula Burke!**

The recent All Service Academy Holly Ball marked the final event of Paula Burke's tenure as WPPC-MA President. Paula's calm demeanor, exceptional organizational skills, cheerful optimism and dedication to parent support has made our organization one of West Point's premier parent clubs. Her leadership has greatly enhanced the West Point experience for many Massachusetts families. Thanks Paula! Paula's son Ryan Burke ('2017) is the squad leader for his company's Sandhurst team and has branched Infantry. Ryan and Paula are shown in this December Holly Ball photo of the cake cutting ceremony.



## 2016 WPPC-MA Recap

Thanks to all members for supporting a great year of club events. You can find details and great pictures of most events on our web site and Facebook page. Here is a quick summary of our significant 2016 activities:

- We packaged and shipped ~100 boxes of donated Boodle to our Yuks, Cows & Graduates
- We welcomed our new 2020 Massachusetts cadets and families at the WPSNE Founders Day Banquet, and the WPPC-MA Hail & Farewell celebration. Thanks to the 2017-2019 cadets that joined us at these events.
- Our September Football Tail-Gate party was a big success. If you couldn't make it this year, don't miss next!
- Parent support remains strong! Thanks to Sharlene Stansbury ('19, Bus Coordinator) and Mike McKinney ('20, Web Master) for filling open positions in 2016, and to the rest of the team for your dedication!
- Our R-Day volunteers were on campus to guide families through the start of the challenging new-cadet process.
- In December, twenty-five WPPC-MA families arrived in Baltimore to cheer Army Football to victory (finally!) over Navy. See later in this newsletter for how to book your club-reserved hotel room for the 2017 Army-Navy game.
- The WPPC-MA successfully organized the recent 2016 All Service Academy Holly Ball. Check out the pictures in the Boston Sunday Globe! Join us in Dec 2017 as the Coast Guard organizes the next successful Holly Ball.
- So much more - visit our Facebook page and Web Site to learn more about past and future WPPC-MA activities.

## 2016 All Service Academy Holly Ball

Thanks to club members Denise Kenneally and Katherine O'Connell for spear heading this year's successful All Service Academy Holly Ball. On December 30th, over 250 cadets and family members from the USMA, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine Academies gathered at Boston's Seaport Hotel for a night of patriotic holiday cheer, dancing and celebration. If you couldn't make it to the Holly Ball this year... don't miss it in 2017! Check out some pictures at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/134101678@N02/sets/72157674703821494/> (courtesy of Brad Whitehall). Also keep an eye on the Boston Globe. They took many pictures, and have traditionally published them in the Sunday paper a week or two after the event.





### **Want to Get More Involved in Your WPPC-MA?**

We have several open parent club positions, and invite you to consider joining us. To learn more about these positions, please attend our next General Meeting on Jan 29, or contact Phil Bedard (pbedard1@gmail.com) or Alan Beaulieu (Alanbeaulieu@verizon.net). We have a deep and experienced team that can easily guide new members into any position of interest. Some of our current/upcoming open positions include Car Pool Coordinator, Membership, and Event Coordinator.

### **Stay Connected With Our WPPC-MA Facebook Group**

Our club's private Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WPPCM/>) is a great way to stay connected with your club friends and members. It's also a great way to get quick answers and help on West Point related issues. Many members use our page to help buy/sell/share event tickets, get quick answers to questions, and to maintain friendships with club members. We ask that all posts be West Point / Parent Club related. To be added to this private Facebook group, contact our social media specialist Brad Whitehall at [brad.whitehall@gmail.com](mailto:brad.whitehall@gmail.com).

### **Membership Report**

We are pleased to report excellent WPPC-MA membership numbers as we close out the year. Approximately 85% of Massachusetts cadet families have joined our Club at some point in their West Point journey. Of these families, more than 60% have chosen to maintain an uninterrupted membership for the duration of their West Point experience. Thank you for this high level of support to Massachusetts cadet families. Last year, we made the membership renewal process easier by offering a discounted and one-time membership option to cover all four years. Due to the strong response, we will continue to offer this option for the incoming class of 2021. Please look for our membership renewal email this spring. See <http://wppc-ma.org/membership/> for details on how you can easily renew your membership on-line, or via check/mail.

### **Web Site Passwords No Longer Required**

The WPPC-MA has phased out the use of member passwords on our website. Previously, member login was required to receive a member bus discount. We are developing a new means to allow member bus discounts on future bus purchases. This coming change will allow for smoother transactions, and eliminates the previous confusion related to frequent password resets.

### **The WPPC-MA Car Pool List**

During the second half of the academic year, there are fewer weekends that create enough demand for a club sponsored bus. For these times, we have created the WPPC-MA Car Pool List. Would you like to be included on the list? If so, please contact Patti Macdonald at [patti@macs5.com](mailto:patti@macs5.com). Once you are added to the list, we ask that you carefully follow the car pool list instructions that are posted at <http://wppc-ma.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Car-Pool-List-Instructions-2016-10-09.pdf>. Shortly after this newsletter is published, we will re-issue the current car pool list to all Car Pool List members. Please note that Patti's cadet ('17) will soon graduate, and we'll need a replacement for this position. Please contact Patti if you'd

like to join our team as the Car Pool List Coordinator. The car pool list is extremely helpful to Massachusetts families.

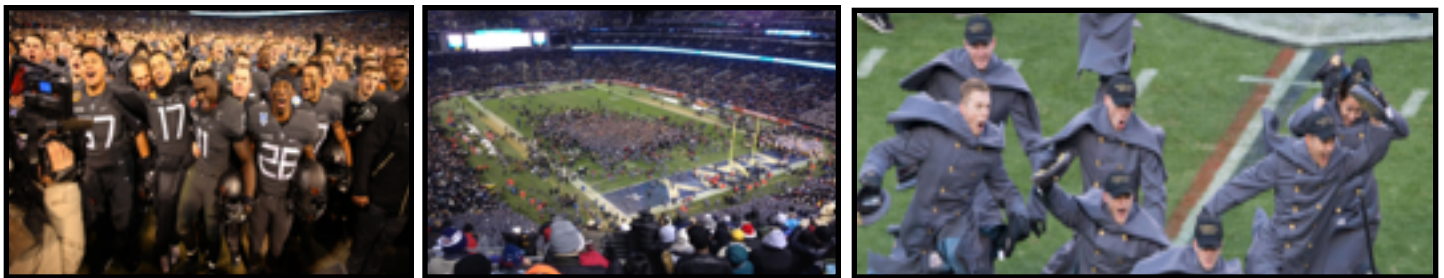
### **The Bus**

The West Point Parents' Club of Massachusetts arranges bus transportation for Cadets and Cadet Guests between Massachusetts to West Point during holidays and leaves when large numbers of Cadets are likely to be coming home. Our last remaining bus for the academic year will be a March 19th "return to West Point" bus following spring break. Registration will be announced via email in mid winter. Bus information can be found at <http://wppc-ma.org/the-bus/>.



## Army 21 Navy 17 - The Win Streak Begins!

25 WPPC-MA families recently traveled to Baltimore for the Army-Navy Football game. The club arranged for a block of waterfront rooms at a discount price at the Royal Sonesta hotel on Baltimore's inner harbor. It was a fantastic way to share America's Game as Army West Point pulled out a thrilling come from behind 4th quarter win.



## Get Your Hotel Room Now for Army-Navy 2017!

The club has negotiated an excellent deal with the Holiday Inn Express (Midtown) in Philadelphia for Army-Navy game in 2017. After the big win in 2016, Philadelphia hotel rooms will get pricey and eventually sell for the next game, so book yours EARLY. Rooms are \$205 / night for the weekend Dec 8th thru 10th. This is less expensive than our block of rooms for our last Army-Navy visit to Philly, and less expensive than all other major downtown hotels for those event dates. The location is convenient to downtown restaurants, bars, and public transportation to the stadium.

Use the link below to ensure you receive our discounted rate. We ask each family to book no more than 2 rooms. Please do not share this special registration link to outside parties. Note that we are holding back a small set of our allocated rooms to incoming Class of 2021 families. If you have questions on this registration process, please contact Phil Bedard.

**Go Army! Beat Navy!**

The hotel registration link: <https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/philadelphia/phlmt/hoteldetail?qAdlt=1&qBr=6c.hi.ex.rs.ic.cp.in.sb.cw.cv.ul.vn.ki.sp.nd.ct&qChld=0&qFRA=1&qGRM=0&qGrpCd=MAS&qlta=>

**On-Line Resources for our Massachusetts and New England West Point Families:**

WPPC-MA Website: <http://wppc-ma.org/>  
WPPC-MA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WPPCM/>)  
West Point Society of New England (WPSNE): <http://wpsne.org/>

**Upcoming WPPC-MA Schedule of Events:**

MA  
Jan 29 (Sunday) 1pm: 2nd WPPC-MA Board Meeting. Location: 153 Belmont Street, Reading  
Jan 29 (Sunday) 3pm: Cow Loan Boodle Bash. Location: 153 Belmont Street, Reading MA  
Feb 26 (Sunday) 1pm: Deployed USMA Grad Boodle Bash  
Mar 25 (Saturday): WPSNE Founder's Day Banquet  
Apr 2 (Sunday) 1pm: 3rd WPPC-MA Board Meeting and Firstie Celebration